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[Signature]

21 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Dr. Flax

1. At the DCI's instruction, I called Dr. Flax to remind him of the PFIAB's injunction not to redeploy the OXCART aircraft from Southeast Asia until the capability of the SR-71 as a replacement had been established. I said that it was not entirely clear as to who is supposed to be satisfied in this respect, but that some satisfactory record was obviously called for. Dr. Flax said that he obviously could not certify a "one for one" performance record as between the two different aircraft. The respective performance of the two different configurations had been the subject of many studies and their differences were thoroughly recognized. As far as actual coverage was concerned, the operational record of the SR-71 was somewhat difficult to relate to the BLACKSHIELD coverage because of the almost continual cloud cover experienced by the former.

2. I said that I supposed that the question was whether the SR-71 could provide coverage which was of generally comparable quality and availability. I said that what the DCI wanted to know is whether he could quote Dr. Flax for the proposition that the SR-71 could be counted upon to provide coverage of USIB targets with about the same resolution and within about the same time frame as was formerly provided by the BLACKSHIELD operation. Dr. Flax said that the DCI could quote him (Dr. Flax) to this effect.

**DD/S&T
FILE COPY**

/s/ John A. Bross

JOHN A. BROSS
D/DCI/NIPE

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